



McLean County Area EMS System

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****MEMORANDUM****

****Clinical Care Directive****

To: BLS/ILS/ALS Agencies

From: Dylan Ferguson, Paramedic, B.S., L.I.
Director

Date: 10/20/2015

Subject: Nitroglycerin and Chest Pain

Recently there has been in depth discussion in regards to administering nitroglycerin to patients presenting with suspected Inferior Wall Myocardial Infarctions. After consultation with both EMS Medical Directors and Cardiologists from both Advocate Bromenn Medical Center, and OSF St. Joseph Medical Center the following guidelines are set forth and effective immediately.

- These revised procedures only affect patients with **suspected Inferior Wall MI's**. All other chest pain patients will be treated in accordance with the standing chest pain protocol.
- ILS/ALS providers shall **withhold** nitroglycerin from suspected inferior wall MI patients if any of the following are present
 - The systolic blood pressure is <140mm Hg
 - The heart rate is <60
 - The heart rate is >100
- BLS providers shall continue to follow the standing chest pain protocol. **Nothing in this memo changes treatments for BLS providers.**
- General reminders for the standing chest pain protocol
 - Nitroglycerin is to only be administered if the systolic blood pressure is >90
 - Nitroglycerin is to be by **medical control** order only if the heart rate is >130
 - Nitroglycerin is to be by **medical control** order only if the patient has taken any phosphodiesterase inhibitors in the last 48 hours

We thank you for your time and attention to this information. If you have any questions on this information or any other issue please reach out to us in the office.

Cc: Dr. Joel Nilles D.O.
Dr. Doug Ward M.D.